

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method of determining winners of a large-scale bingo game, the method comprising:

- (a) drawing bingo numbers until at least one winning card exists; and
- (b) identifying bonus cards that have less than a predetermined number of drawn bingo numbers.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined number of drawn bingo numbers is one.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein (b) comprises analyzing entries in card bitmaps.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein (b) comprises identifying cards that include no bingo numbers that have been drawn during a predetermined length of time.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein (b) comprises identifying cards that include no bingo numbers that have been drawn during the drawing of a second predetermined number of drawn bingo numbers.

6. The method of claim 1, further including:

- (c) identifying cards that are both the at least one winning card in (a) and the bonus cards in (b).

7. The method of claim 6, further including:

(d) awarding a prize to cardholders of the cards identified in (c) that is of greater value than a prize awarded to cardholders of the at least one winning card in (a).

8. The method of claim 1, further including:

awarding a prize to cardholders of the cards identified in (b) that is of less value than a prize awarded to cardholders of the at least one winning card in (a).

9. A computer-implemented method of determining winners of a large-scale bingo game, the method comprising:

(a) determining a bingo card bonus coordinate position;

(b) analyzing bingo card records that each identify values assigned to the coordinate position; and

(c) determining which bingo card records include a predetermined value in the coordinate position.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined value corresponds to a drawn number.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the bingo card records comprise card maps.

12. The method of claim 9, further including awarding a prize to contestants having bingo cards that include the predetermined value.

13. The method of claim 9, further including awarding a bonus prize to contestants having bingo cards that include winning patterns and the predetermined value.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the coordinate position is determined before a corresponding bingo game.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the coordinate position is determined by a contestant before a corresponding bingo game.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein the coordinate position is determined after a corresponding bingo game.